

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 11, 41, respectively. Accordingly, Claims 11, 41 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 20, 23, 37, 42 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 11.

Claims 28, 33 have been amended to be in independent form as to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. All Claim amendments herein are directed toward matters of form and thus are unrelated to patentability.

1) Allowable Subject Matter.

The Examiner states:

Claims 11, 28, 33, 41 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action, page 2.)

As set forth above, Claims 1, 20, 23, 37, 42 and Claim 16 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 11 and Claim 41, respectively.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 16, 20, 23, 37 and 42 are allowable. Claims 2-8, 10, 12-15, 24-27, 29-32, 34-36, 50, which depend from Claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1. Claims 17, 19, 38-40, 51, which depend from Claim 16, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16. Claims 22, 43, 52, which depend from Claim 20, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 20. Claims 44-47, 53, which depend from Claim 23, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 23. Claim 54, which depends from Claim 37, is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 37. Claim 55, which depends from Claim 42, is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 42.

As also set forth above, Claims 28, 33 have been amended to be in independent form at to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claims 28, 33 are allowable.

In summary, Claims 1-8, 10, 12-17, 19-20, 22-40, 42-47, 50-55, i.e., all pending claims, are allowable.

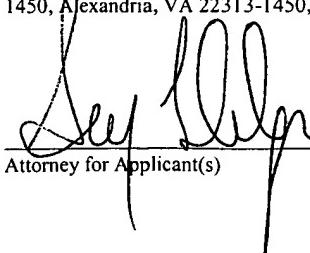
For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claims 28, 33. Further, for the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-7, 10, 12-16, 19, 20, 22-27, 29-32, 34-40, 42-44, 46, 47 as being unpatentable over Wang et al. (5,977,626) in view of Khan et al. (6,853,070). Finally, for the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 8, 17, 45, 50-55 as being unpatentable over Wang et al. in view of Khan et al. further in view of Burns (5,566,051).

Conclusion

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-17, 19-20, 22-40, 42-47, 50-55 are pending in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

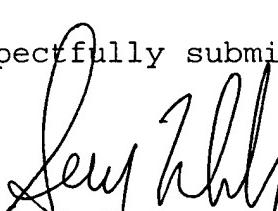
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 12, 2006.


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April 12, 2006
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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